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ABSTRACT

This report presents statistics from the second year (1990-91) of the District of Columbia Public Schools' (DCPS) implementation of procedures to identify and track student dropouts. Other school "leaver" data was also collected. The primary data presented in this report focuses on secondary school dropouts (grades 7-12). However, cursory data is also presented for elementary students (grades 1-6) who were withdrawn from DCPS after extended absences and failure to return. A two-page summary of the statistics opens the report. Statistics are presented in the forms of tables and graphs in these areas: (1) secondary school leaver statistics; (2) dropouts by group membership; (3) dropout and migration statistics by grade and school level; and (4) dropout and migration statistics by ward. The appendix includes elementary absentee/leaver statistics; a definition of "dropout"; discussion of data limitations and reliability; a graph of 2-year trends among secondary school dropouts; a discussion of school dropout rates for the school years 1986/87 to 1990/91; a list of DCPS with secondary students; and a list of DCPS by ward. (ABL)

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DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

District of Columbia Public Schools

School Year 1990-91

Franklin L. Smith
Superintendent of Schools
Chief State School Officer

June 1992

CG024668

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District of Columbia Public Schools

Dropout and Migration Statistics

School Year 1990-91

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June 1992

PREFACE

School year 1990-91 was the second year of implementation for the Dropout Accounting System. While the system was designed, primarily, to identify and track student dropouts, other school "leaver" data is also collected. This system utilizes a series of automated and manual data collection procedures and relies on the local schools to verify the status of all secondary students identified as school "leavers" (i.e., graduates, transfers, incapacitated students and dropouts). All District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) secondary students enrolled by October 18, 1990 (date of the official membership count) who did not return to DCPS by October 17, 1991 were identified and tracked through the Student Information Management System (SIMS) as school leavers. The names of school leavers were then submitted to their last school of enrollment for additional information regarding their withdrawal reasons and destination, if transferred. The systematic process used to identify school leavers this second year incorporated more automated procedures over the past year and continued improvements along these lines in tracking are expected.

The Dropout Accounting System was developed through the DCPS participation in the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) Dropout Field Test. As one of 120 school districts participating in the national field test, the DCPS helped develop a consensus of policies and procedures to be used in collecting dropout statistics nation-wide beginning in school year 1991-92.

The primary data presented in this report focuses on secondary school dropouts (grades 7-12). However, cursory data is also presented for elementary students (grades 1-6) who were withdrawn from DCPS after extended absences and failure to return (see Appendix).

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

SECONDARY STUDENT DROPOUTS (GRADES 7-12)

For school year 1990-91, the dropout rate for DCPS secondary students (Grades 7-12) was 9.10% (n=2821). This percentage reflects a decline from the previous year's rate of 10.37%.

Dropouts by Race, Gender and Age

Similar to the previous school year, Hispanic students had the highest percentage of dropouts (15.63%) in proportion to their race/ethnic membership in the school system. American-Indian students had the second highest rate (11.11%) although this percentage reflects a single student dropout (n=1) as a proportion of the American-Indian membership in the school system. Also proportionally, Asian students dropped out of DCPS at a slightly higher rate (8.41%) than African-American students (8.04%), while white students had the lowest rate (5.76%). In terms of total numbers, however, more African-American students dropped out than did any other group (85.56%/n=2275).

The majority of dropouts (55.30%) were male , while 44.70% were female. Nearly one-fifth of school dropouts (19.99%) were below the legal dropout age of 16-years-old, and more than one-half (51.73%) were 18 years or older.

Dropouts by Grade and School Level

Nearly three-fourths of secondary school dropouts (73.67%) left during their senior high school years (grades 9-12), with the highest percentage leaving during grade 10 (26.18%). In comparison to the previous school year, grades 7,8 and 9 showed a slight increase in the number of dropouts, while grades 10,11 and 12 showed a decrease.

In proportion to their membership totals, senior high schools had the highest percentage of dropouts (11.06%), followed by the alternative schools (9.28%). The extended elementary schools had a slightly higher percentage of dropouts (7.70%) than junior high schools (6.31%), and special education centers had the lowest rate (2.03%).

Dropouts by Ward

Similar to the previous school year, Ward 1 had the highest percentage of dropouts (15.29%) in proportion to their school membership total, followed by Wards 5 and 8 (10.62% and 9.28%, respectively). Ward 2 had the lowest percentage of dropouts (3.61%), proportionally. However, in terms of total numbers, Ward 5 had the greatest number of dropouts (25.0%/n=664), and comprises the largest number of schools.

OUT-MIGRATION AND OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOL LEAVERS

The out-migration rate (out-of-city transfers) for secondary students was 3.01%, which reflects a slight increase over the previous school year. Less than one percent of secondary students (0.45%) transferred to optional education programs such as D.C. private schools, DCPS adult education centers and the Job Corp. In addition, less than one percent (0.42%) were incapacitated during the school year through court-ordered withdrawals (including incarceration), deaths and serious illnesses. While there were fewer court-ordered withdrawals in comparison to the previous school year, the number of deaths and serious illnesses increased.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEAVERS (GRADES 1-6)

Less than one percent of elementary students (0.38%/n=143) were withdrawn from DCPS during SY 1990-91 after prolonged absences (see Appendix - Dropout Definition). While these absentee/leavers primarily include dropouts, it is likely that some undocumented transfers, court-ordered withdrawals, deaths and serious illnesses are included as well. Tracking procedures were not implemented for elementary students this year. The largest percentage of absentee/leavers occurred at grade 1 (25.87%) followed by grades 5 and 6 (16.78% for both).

SCHOOL "LEAVERS"

(Secondary Students Only)

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEAVER STATISTICS
FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS
GRADES 7-12

(SY 1990-91)

ATTRITION	Number	% of Fall '90 Membership
a/ TOTAL FALL '90 MEMBERSHIP	30,990	
b/ TOTAL FALL '91 CONTINUED COHORT MEMBERSHIP	-23,597	76.14
c/ TOTAL SCHOOL LEAVERS (Attrition)	7,393	23.86

SCHOOL LEAVERS COUNTED		Number	% of Fall '90 Membership
d/	Graduates	3,369	10.87
e/	Transfers:		
	* Out-migration (out-of-city)	934	3.01
	* Optional Education Programs:	138	0.45
	** D.C. Private School (104)		
	** DCPS Adult Educ Ctr (10)		
	** Job Corp (24)		
	Incapacitated:	131	0.42
f/	* Court Ordered Withdrawal (83)		
	* Death/Illness (48)		
g/	Dropouts:	2,821	9.10
h/	* Voluntary withdrawal (714)		
i/	* Left W/O Explanation (1,945)		
j/	* Unaccounted (162)[0.52%]		
	TOTAL SCHOOL LEAVERS	7,393	

SY 1990-91
DROPOUT RATE

$$\frac{2821}{30990} = 0.0910 \times 100 = 9.10\%$$

a/ Based on validated Fall '90 (October 18, 1990) enrollment for secondary students (N=30,990) in grades Un,7-12.

b/ Continued enrollment of Fall '90 cohort in Fall '91 {i.e., Fall '91 students in grades 8-12 (n=24,667), plus Fall '90 cohort retained in grade 7 (n=423), minus SY 1990-91 late entrants (n=1291), minus Fall '91 new entrants into school system (n=202)}.

c/ School leavers include all students enrolled during Fall '90 but who did not re-enroll the following Fall '91 including graduates, transfers, the incapacitated and dropouts.

d/ Includes Spring and Summer '91 graduates

e/ Students transferring to DCPS adult education centers are not counted in DCPS membership totals and are, therefore, considered to be DCPS leavers; students transferring to DCPS alternative education programs are not considered to be school leavers (n=65)

f/ Court-ordered withdrawals including juvenile offenders sentenced to Oak Hill and Cedar Knolls detention centers

g/ Dropouts include secondary students withdrawn from all regular academic, alternative and special education programs

h/ Students withdrawn after giving some type of notification; 427 of these students withdrew with the explanation of transferring to another D.C. Public School but did not follow through (i.e., dropped out)

i/ Students withdrawn after prolonged absences of 45 or more consecutive school days (see Appendix - Dropout Definition)

j/ Based on Fall membership totals (October 1990 and October 1991) all but 162 of the secondary students comprising the Fall '90 cohort are accounted for, resulting into an error rate of 0.52%. Due to the lack of transfer or other official documentation, these 162 students are classified as dropouts to minimize the under-reporting of dropout statistics

PERCENT OF STUDENT LEAVERS FROM SECONDARY MEMBERSHIP
(N = 30,990)

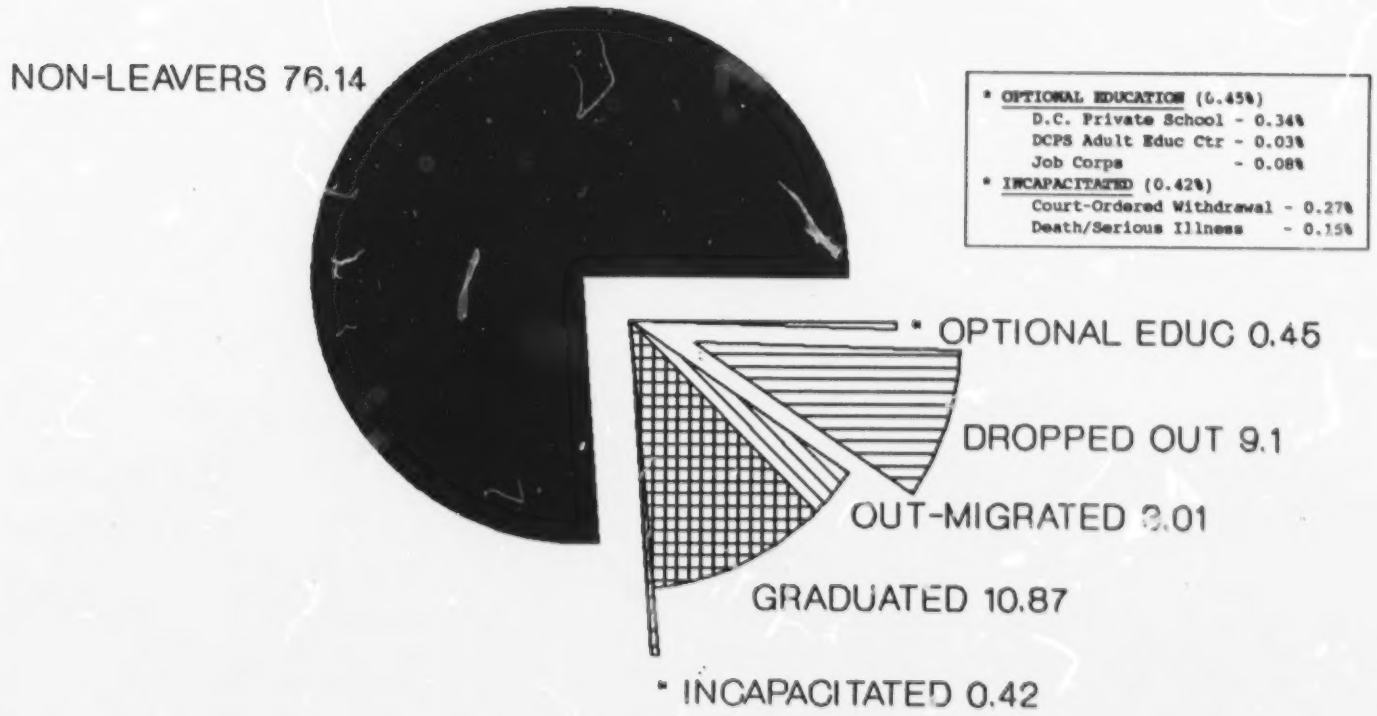

FIGURE 1

DROPOUT RATES BY

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

(Secondary Students Only)

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SECONDARY STUDENT DROPOUTS
BY GROUP MEMBERSHIP
(SY 1990-91)

DROPOUTS	Total Number	Dropouts as %age of Respective k/ Membership Group	Percent of Total Dropouts
OVERALL	2821	9.10	100.00
l/ (162 unaccounted dropouts not included in breakdowns; n=2659)			
Race/Ethnic			
African-Amer	2275	8.04	85.56
Amer-Indian	1	11.11 m/	.03
Asian	28	8.41	1.05
Hispanic	255	15.63	9.59
White	42	5.76	1.58
n/ Unidentified	58	N/A	2.18
o/ **Gender**			
Male	1470	9.76	55.30
Female	1189	7.46	44.70
Age			
12-13	76	SEE NOTE:	2.85
14-15	456		17.14
16-17	685		25.76
18-19	945		35.53
20-21	366		13.76
over 21	65		2.44
p/ Unidentified	66		2.58
Grade			
q/ Ungraded	60	2.98	2.26
07	302	5.50	11.36
08	338	6.54	12.71
09	480	9.48	18.05
10	696	13.13	26.18
11	500	11.33	18.80
12	283	8.01	10.64
7-9	1120	7.12	42.12
9-12	1959	10.70	73.67
10-12	1479	11.16	55.62

k/ dropouts as a percentage of their respective race, gender, age, and grade membership

l/ 162 dropouts identified through the error rate are not included in the group breakdowns; dropout percentages based on 2659 dropouts identified through the "head-count" only

m/ percent based on 1 student dropout

n/ incomplete biographical records prevented the classification of 58 dropouts by race

o/ Fall '89 secondary male membership = 15,056; secondary female membership = 15,934

p/ incomplete biographical data prevented the classification of 53 dropouts by age

q/ ungraded students include special education students who did not have a grade specification in their regular academic school or special education center, and students who were unclassified due to their participation in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, Spingarn S.T.A.Y and Ballou S.T.A.Y. alternative programs

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NOTE: Student membership data not presently available by age

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM RACE MEMBERSHIP (n=RESPECTIVE RACE MEMBERSHIP)

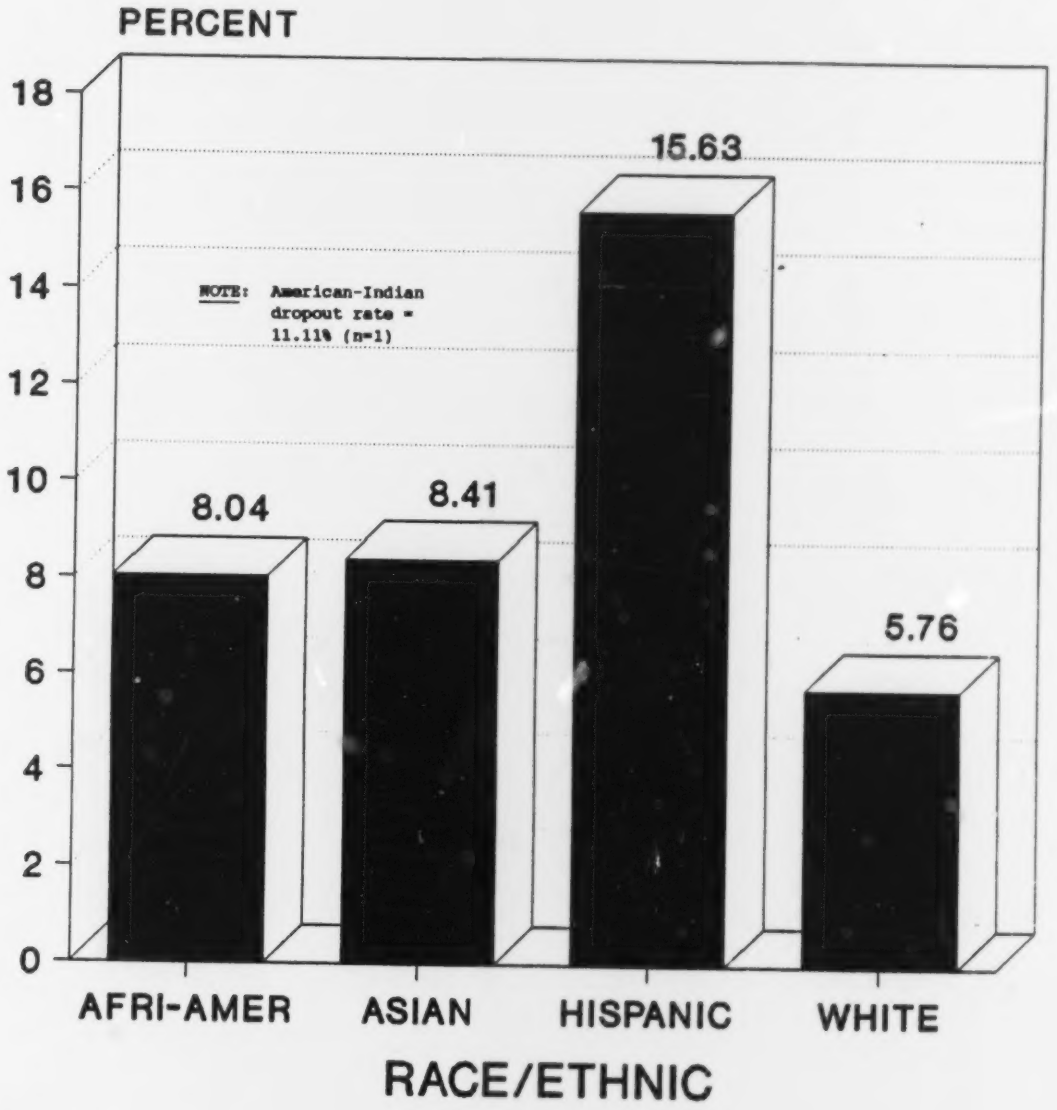


FIGURE 2

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM GENDER MEMBERSHIP

(n=RESPECTIVE GENDER MEMBERSHIP)

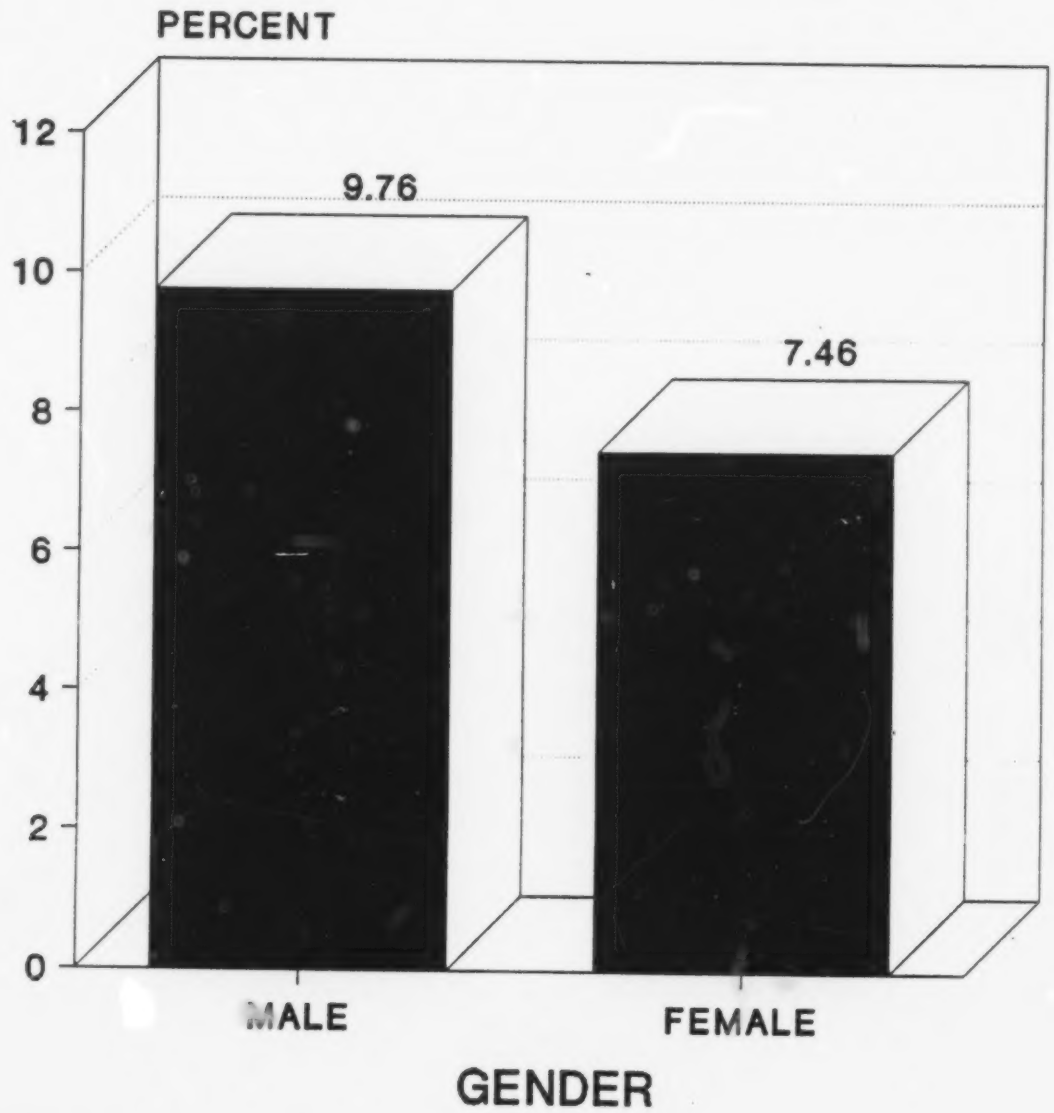


FIGURE 3

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
BY AGE
(n=2,659)

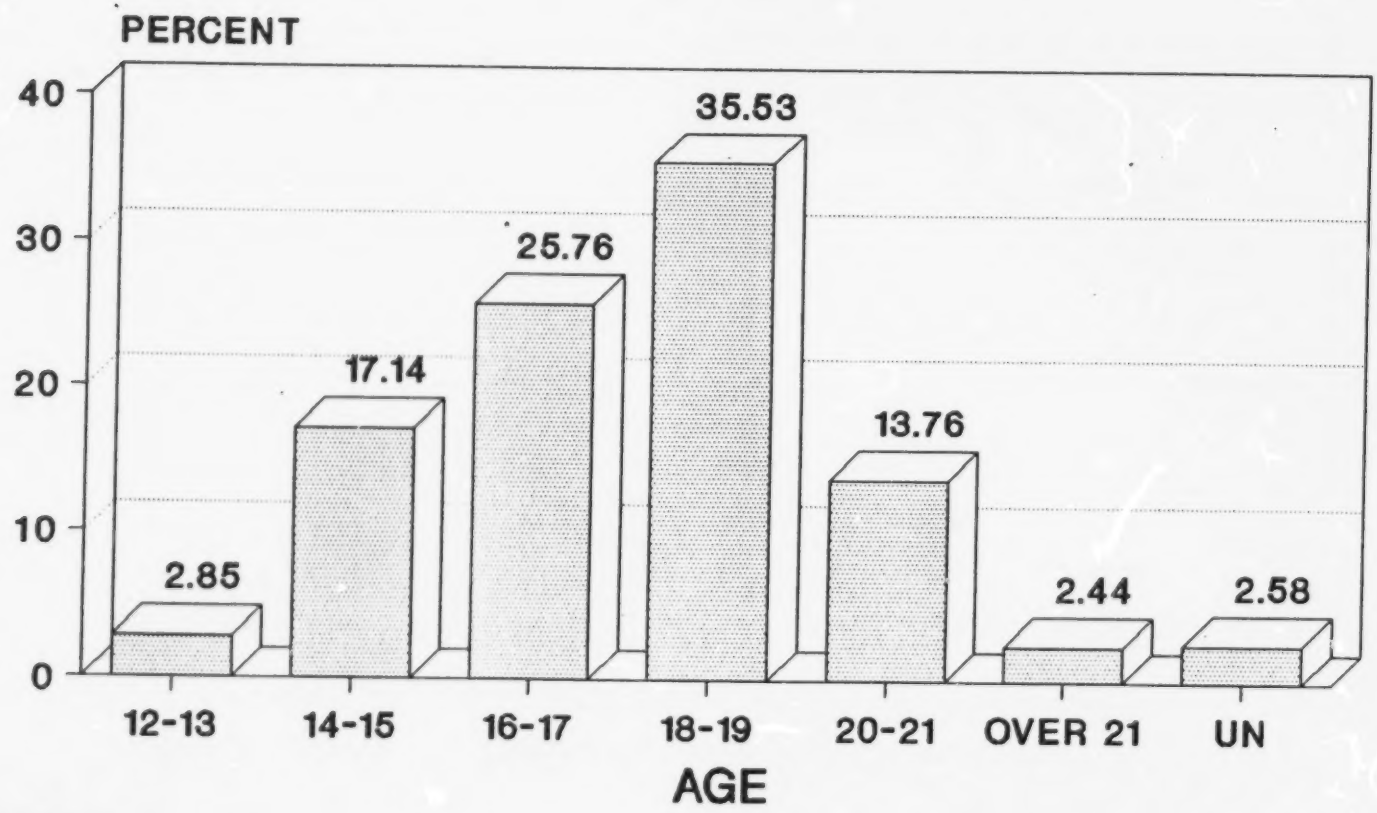


FIGURE 4

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS BY GRADE AND SCHOOL LEVEL

(Secondary Students Only)

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM GRADE MEMBERSHIP
(n=RESPECTIVE GRADE MEMBERSHIP)

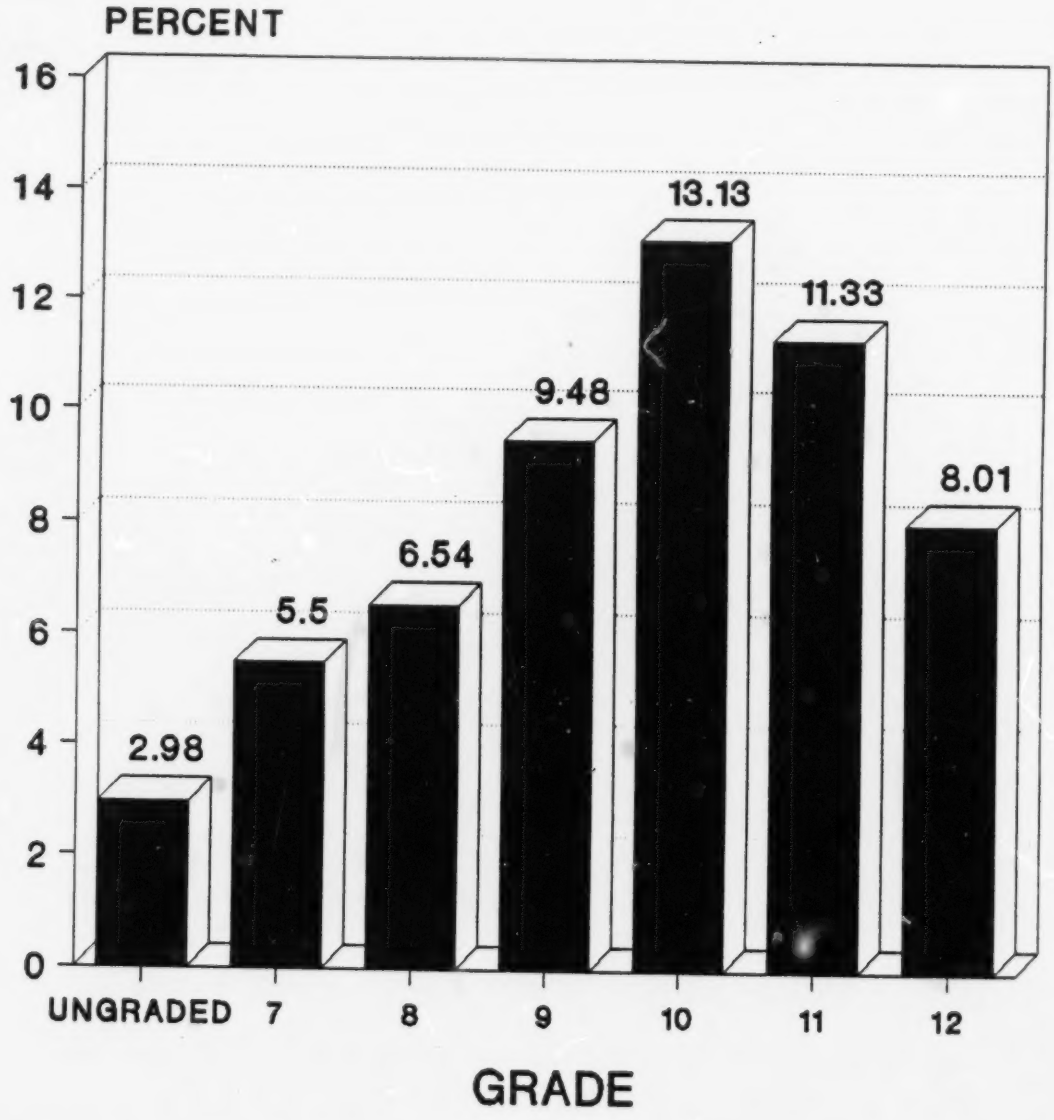


FIGURE 5

9

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM SCH-LEVEL MEMBERSHIP
(n=RESPECTIVE SCHOOL LEVEL MEMBERSHIP)

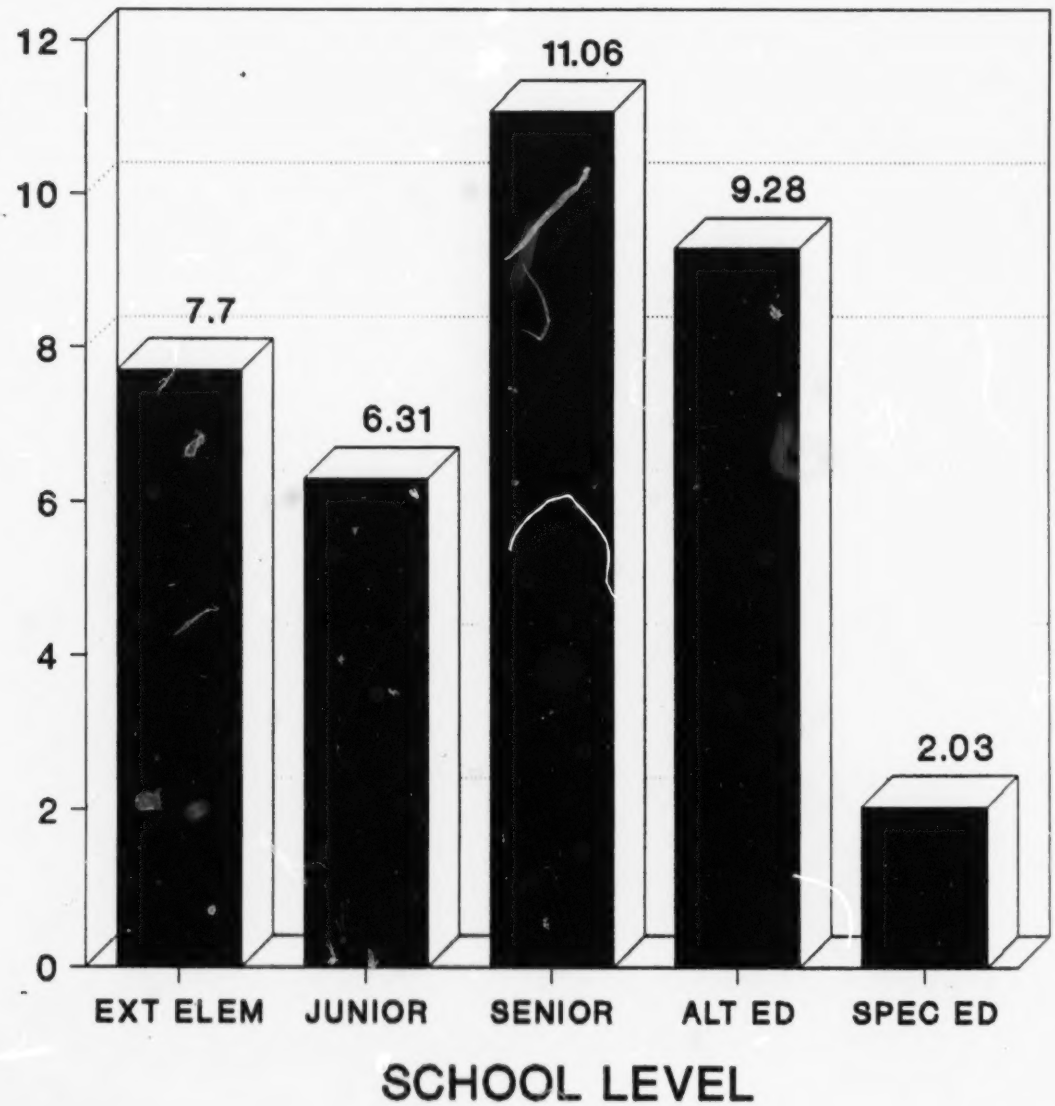


FIGURE 6

SY 1990-1991
D.C. Public School Leaver Statistics

EXTENDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
(n=883)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	24	44	0	0	0	0	0	68
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	16
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	36
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	80	0	0	0	0	0	122

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{68}{883} \times 100 = 7.70\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{36}{883} \times 100 = 4.07\%$

SY 1990-1991
D.C. Public School Leaver Statistics

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
(n=13902)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	278	294	290	0	0	0	15	877
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	12	24	9	0	0	0	0	45
DEATH OR ILLNESS	5	5	6	0	0	0	1	17
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	24	18	25	0	0	0	0	67
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	246	218	115	0	0	0	3	582
TRF TO JOB CORP	1	8	5	0	0	0	0	14
TOTAL	566	568	451	0	0	0	19	1604

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{877}{13902} \times 100 = 6.31\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{582}{13902} \times 100 = 4.19\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public School Leaver Statistics

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
(n=13740)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	126	641	456	263	35	1521
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	3	19	8	3	0	33
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	12	7	1	3	23
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	7
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH	0	0	2	13	5	1	0	21
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	0	0	29	150	77	18	2	276
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	2	5	3	0	0	10
TOTAL	0	0	162	842	560	287	40	1891

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{1521}{13740} \times 100 = 11.06\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{276}{13740} \times 100 = 2.01\%$

SY 1990-1991
D.C. Public School Leaver Statistics

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS
(n=1973)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	60	52	42	20	9	183
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	6
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	0	0	2	2	28	1	1	34
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	64	55	72	22	14	227

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{183}{1973} \times 100 = 9.28\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{34}{1973} \times 100 = 1.72\%$

SY 1990-1991
D.C. Public School Leaver Statistics

SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS
(n=492)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	4	3	2	0	1	10
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	6
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	1	8	4	2	0	3	18

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{10}{492} \times 100 = 2.03\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{6}{492} \times 100 = 1.22\%$

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION

STATISTICS BY WARD

(Secondary Students Only)

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM WARD MEMBERSHIP (n=RESPECTIVE WARD MEMBERSHIP)

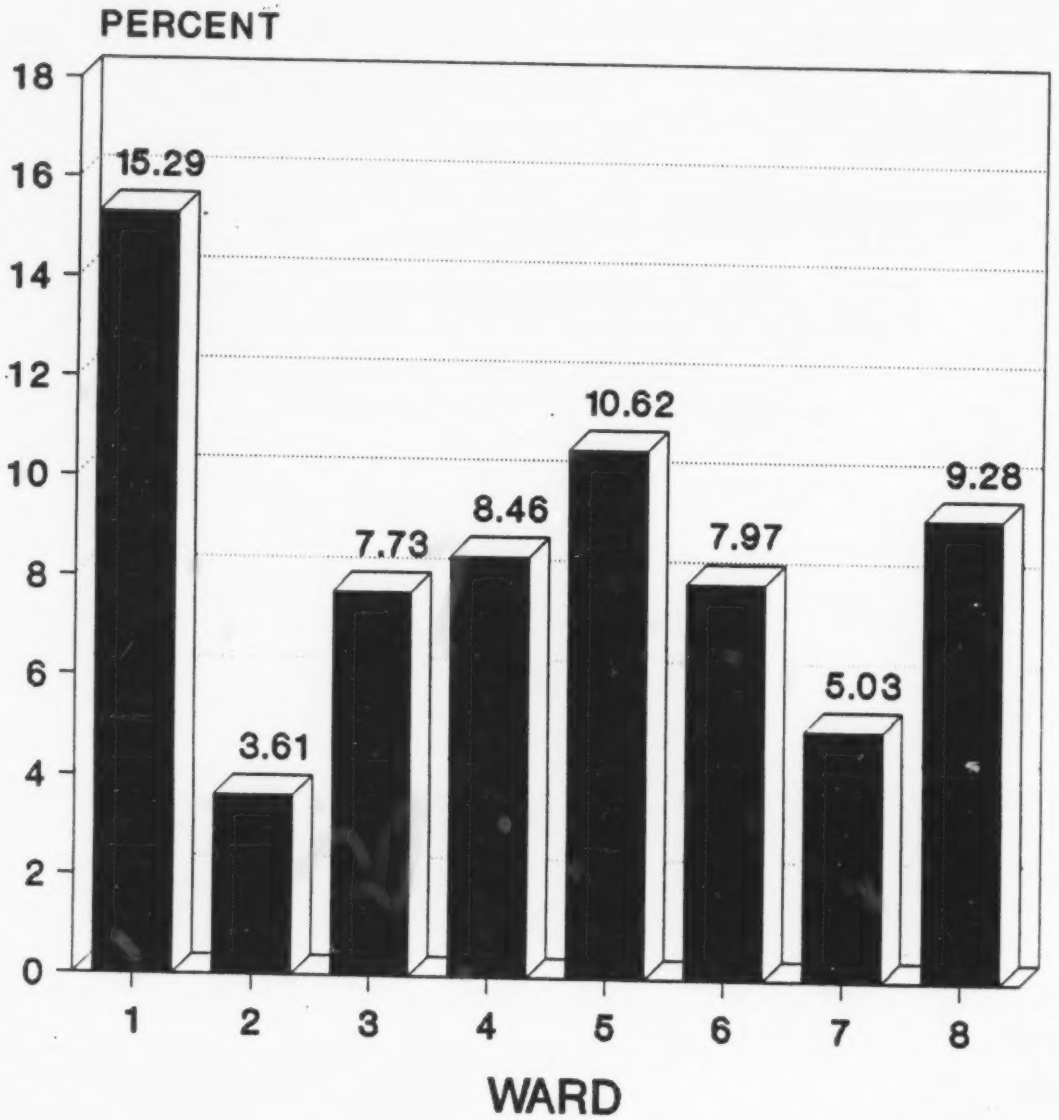


FIGURE 7

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 1
(n=2706)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	52	33	60	158	67	38	6	414
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	6
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	6
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	31	15	12	20	8	2	0	88
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
TOTAL	89	50	74	185	81	41	6	526

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{414}{2706} \times 100 = 15.29\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{88}{2706} \times 100 = 3.25\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 2
(n=2906)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	38	36	30	0	1	0	0	105
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	3	6	3	0	0	0	0	12
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	6	6	9	0	0	0	0	21
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	52	47	20	7	5	1	0	132
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	99	96	64	7	6	1	0	273

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{105}{2906} \times 100 = 3.61\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{132}{2906} \times 100 = 4.54\ \%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 3
(n=2898)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	12	32	44	46	60	28	2	224
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	4
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	4	10	10	11	2	1	0	38
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	22	23	26	25	22	7	2	127
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	38	66	80	83	86	37	5	395

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{224}{2898} \times 100 = 7.73\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{127}{2898} \times 100 = 4.38\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 4
(n=3690)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	25	35	71	75	70	32	4	312
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	2	2	1	5	0	0	0	10
DEATH OR ILLNESS	2	1	0	3	3	0	0	9
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	2	4	3	1	0	0	0	10
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	36	35	24	30	8	1	2	136
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	67	78	100	115	82	33	6	481

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{312}{3690} \times 100 = 8.46\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{136}{3690} \times 100 = 3.69\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 5
(n=6250)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	35	45	105	202	153	89	35	664
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	2	4	2	9	2	3	0	22
DEATH OR ILLNESS	3	1	4	6	2	0	2	18
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	10
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	16	31	24	12	12	1	3	99
TRF TO JOB CORP	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	61	85	136	229	171	93	40	815

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{664}{6250} \times 100 = 10.62\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{99}{6250} \times 100 = 1.58\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 6
(n=4691)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	25	44	69	86	82	68	0	374
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	6	3	1	1	0	0	11
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	6
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	1	7	2	0	0	0	0	10
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	33	35	13	18	33	1	0	133
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
TOTAL	59	94	90	106	118	70	0	537

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{374}{4691} \times 100 = 7.97\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{133}{4691} \times 100 = 2.84\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 7
(n=3818)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	48	56	49	16	14	8	1	192
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	1	4	2	0	2	0	0	9
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	31	22	11	11	1	2	0	78
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
TOTAL	81	87	66	28	19	10	2	293

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{192}{3818} \times 100 = 5.03\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{78}{3818} \times 100 = 2.04\%$

SY 1990-91
D.C. Public Schools Leaver Statistics

WARD 8
(n=4031)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	67	57	52	113	53	20	12	374
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	2	2	1	3	1	0	0	9
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	6
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	6
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	42	30	18	30	16	4	1	141
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	114	93	75	148	71	24	17	542

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{374}{4031} \times 100 = 9.28\%$

OUT-MIGRATION RATE: (TRF OUT-OF-CITY) $\frac{141}{4031} \times 100 = 3.50\%$

APPENDIX

** ELEMENTARY ABSENTEE/LEAVER STATISTICS

** DROPOUT DEFINITION

** DATA LIMITATIONS AND RELIABILITY

** 2-YEAR TRENDS AMONG SECONDARY DROPOUTS

** PAST DROPOUT RATES (5 YEARS)

** D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH SECONDARY STUDENTS

** D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LISTED BY WARD

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS ABSENTEE/LEAVER STATISTICS FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GRADES 1-6

(SY 1990-91)

TOTAL ELEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP - Fall '90 37,508

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS ABSENT
45 OR MORE SCHOOL DAYS - SY 1990-91 143

DCPS ELEMENTARY ABSENTEE/LEAVER RATE

$$\frac{143}{37508} \times 100 = 0.381\%$$

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ABSENTEE/LEAVERS BY GRADE LEVEL

	Number	Percent of Grade Membership	Percent of Absentee/Leavers
Grade 1	37	0.49	25.87
2	22	0.32	15.39
3	17	0.49	11.89
4	19	0.31	13.29
5	24	0.35	16.78
6	24	0.46	16.78

NOTE: Absentee/leavers are students who had prolonged absences during SY 1990-91 (see Dropout Definition) and failed to return to DCPS the following Fall of SY 1991-92. These students include dropouts and some undocumented transfers, court-ordered withdrawals, deaths and serious illnesses.

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DROPOUT DEFINITION

" A DROPOUT IS A STUDENT WHO LEAVES SCHOOL PRIOR TO GRADUATION OR COMPLETION OF A FORMAL HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR LEGAL EQUIVALENT, AND WHO DOES NOT ENTER ANOTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM WITHIN 45 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS"

NOTE: Definition developed by the Council of Great City Schools and adopted by the D. C. Board of Education on May 21, 1986

DATA LIMITATIONS AND RELIABILITY

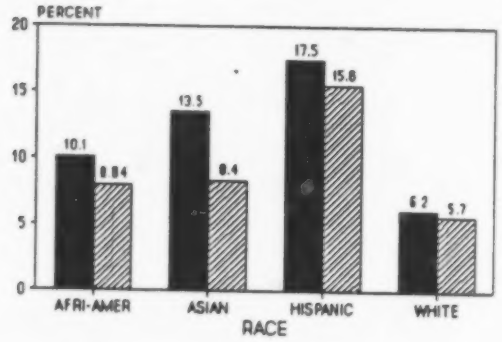
The dropout and migration data was initially collected using the Student Information Management System (SIMS), and was subsequently verified by all local schools with secondary students. However, inconsistencies in local school processing and monitoring of student data onto SIMS required that additional procedures be used to identify the complete pool of student leavers for school year 1990-91. Rather than relying on the data-base codes (i.e., withdrawal codes) used during the previous year, year-to-year school membership rosters were cross-matched for each secondary school to ascertain the names of all secondary school leavers.

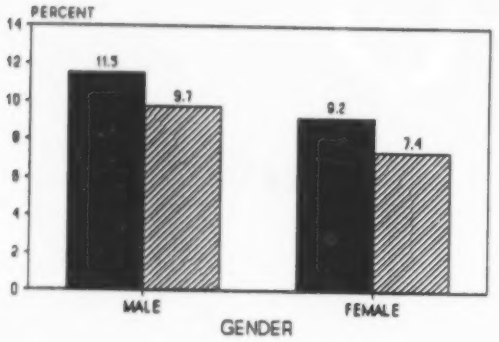
Overall, this cross-matching process was generally effective and did not permit inconsistent school practices to interfere with the dropout accounting system. However, the re-assignment of some student identification numbers at the local schools after students were withdrawn, as well as other data liabilities in SIMS resulted in 162 of the school leavers being unaccounted. This was revealed during the attempt to balance the initial membership figures with the continued cohort membership figures. The status of these 162 students was determined to be unknown, and they were classified as dropouts in order to minimize the under-reporting of dropout statistics. Unfortunately, group membership data (i.e., race/ethnic, gender, age and grade) was unavailable for these dropout students, and their names will not be added to the dropout data-base. In addition to the unaccounted students, incomplete biographical data prevented the classification of 58 dropouts by their race/ethnic group, and prevented 53 dropouts from gender classification.

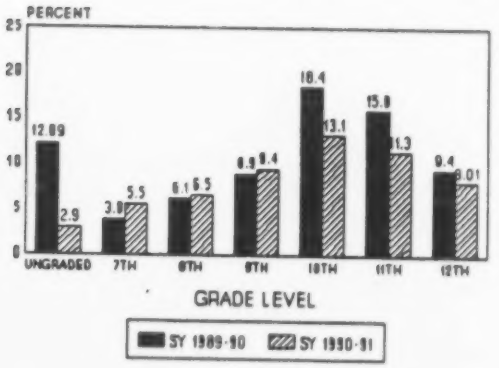
In sum, the general quality of the automated data as well as verifications provided manually by local schools showed improvements over the previous school year. Also, additional automated procedures improved the efficiency of the system irrespective of inconsistent data management at the local schools. Comparable trends in the dropout and migration statistics for the present and past year, particularly by group membership, along with the alignment of the initial and continuous cohort membership figures indicate that the dropout accounting system yields consistent and reliable data.

It is recommended, however, that measures be taken to ensure that all local schools understand and adhere to system-wide policies and practices regarding the entry and deletion of student information in SIMS. Improvements along these lines are critical to the continued improvement of the dropout accounting system and to the student data-base in general.

2-YEAR TRENDS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUTS
(SYs 1989-90 and 1990-91)







D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

(SYs 1987-91)

The method for computing the DCPS dropout rates has changed drastically over the past five years, resulting into a large difference between past and present figures. For the SYs 1986-87 through 1988-89 the dropout rates were computed using a longitudinal formula which did not take several student factors into account. In sum, the formula took the tenth grade class (cohort) and examined their graduation rate three years later. All students of this cohort who were not a part of the graduating class were counted as dropouts. The formula did not account for: (1) students who migrated out of the District of Columbia; (2) students who left their regular school but transferred to adult education centers; and (3) students who were retained in grade and took extra time to graduate. We know that many DCPS student do, in fact, migrate out of the city and we know that between 18% and 20% of the tenth grade class is retained and do not graduate on time. The inadequacy of this formula has lead to the present method of tracking students annually in order to conduct an actual "head-count" of dropouts. School year 1989-90 was the first year these identification and tracking procedures were used and the annual or "event" dropout rate is given below. The data generated for SY 1990-91 is also based on an annual student head-count.

School Year	Secondary Student Dropout Rate
1986-87	a/ 42.97%
1987-88	a/ 42.58%
1988-89	a/ 42.43%
1989-90	b/ 10.37%
1990-91	b/ 9.10%

a/ computed using the three year longitudinal formula (cohort rate)
b/ computed using the annual tracking procedures (event rate)

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH SECONDARY STUDENTS

Extended Elementary Schools

Brookland Elem.
Fletcher Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Fort Lincoln Elem.
Hardy Middle
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Merritt Elem.
River Terrace Commun. Sch.
Stuart-Hobson Middle
Takoma Elem.
West Elem.
Winston Elem.

Junior High Schools

Backus Junior High
Browne Junior High
Deal Junior High
Douglass Junior High
Eliot Junior High
Evans Junior High
Francis Junior High
Garnet-Patterson Junior High
Hart Junior High
Hine Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
Johnson Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Langley Junior High
Lincoln Junior High
MacFarland Junior High
Miller Junior High
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roper Junior High
Shaw Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Taft Junior High
Terrell Junior High
Woodson, C.G. Junior High

Senior High Schools

Anacostia Senior High
Ballou Senior High
Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural High
Cardozo Senior High
Coolidge Senior High
Dunbar Senior High
Eastern Senior High
Ellington Senior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Roosevelt Senior High
School W/O Walls Sr. High
Spingarn Senior High
Wilson Senior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

Alternative Schools

Ballou S.T.A.Y.
D.C. Street Academy
Washington, M. M. School
Washington-Dix Street
Senate Page School
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.

Special Education Centers

Buchanan Secondary L/C
Lee, Mamie D. L/C
Sharpe Health L/C

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LISTED BY WARD

WARD 1

Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural Senior High
Cardozo Senior High
Garnet-Patterson Junior High
Lincoln Junior High

WARD 2

Francis Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
School W/O Walls Senior High
Shaw Junior High
Terrell Junior High

WARD 3

Deal Junior High
Ellington Senior High
Hardy Middle School
Wilson Senior High

WARD 4

Coolidge Senior High
MacFarland Junior High
Lee, Mamie D. Learning Ctr.
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roosevelt Senior High
Sharpe Health Learning Ctr.
Takoma Elementary
West Elementary

WARD 5

Backus Junior High
Brookland Elementary
Brown Junior High
D.C. Street Academy
Dunbar Senior High
Fort Lincoln Elementary
Langley Junior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Spingarn Senior High
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.
Taft Junior High
Washington, M.M. Senior High
Washington-Dix St. Academy

WARD 6

Anacostia Senior High
Buchanan Learning Ctr.
Eastern Senior High
Eliot Junior High
Hine Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Senate Page Senior High
Stuart-Hobson Middle

WARD 7

Evans Junior High
Fletcher-Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Merritt Elementary
Miller Junior High
River Terrace Community Sch.
Roper Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Winston Elementary
Woodson, C.G. Junior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

WARD 8

Ballou Senior High
Ballou S.T.A.Y.
Douglass Junior High
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Hart Junior High
Johnson Junior High